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cleanliness ; the chop sticks, taking the place of our knives and forks, must be new, and to show that they have never been used, they are brought in before they are wholly split.

There are two occasions in the year when the Japanese of all classes, rich or poor, are apt to take a holiday. It is in the early Spring, when the cherry and plum trees are in blossom, or in the Fall, when the maple leaf begins to color. In both seasons the parks are thronged with picnic parties, and young and old rejoice in the beauties of nature. Poets delight in celebrating the variegated colors, and allow their fancy to run riot in exalting the loveliness of their beloved country.

It is impossible to deny that this inborn love of art and beauty exerts a most potent influence upon refinement as seen in the universal politeness of the Japanese. It is true that to us this civility is mere skin deep ; that it is superficial and must not be confounded with the hearty good-will which people of our race are apt to evince when moved by a friendly spirit. But it does enable the poorest of the Japanese toilers to endure his lot with equanimity if not with complacency ; and it induces the rich to continue a life of frugality, offenseless to his less favored brethren. Above all, it encourages the individual to exert himself to the utmost in reaching the ideal which he has been able to conceive, and thus tends to a progress beneficial to the whole.

WITH SOME BIRTHDAY ROSES DROCH

If I were not a speechless flower
I'd like to talk with you an hour
And whisper many pretty things
That thinking of your birthday brings.

(For flowers can dream of happiness
While you their velvet petals press !)
But I can't talk—I know a man
Who often vainly thinks he can—
And what he wanted me to do
Was simply to look fair to you
And wish you joy—and then surprise
The gentle look in your dear eyes.

Enter Three Lovers. Song in which
is told how The Three Sisters have
appropriated the gifts sent to Beauty
—Chorus and dance—Three Sisters
and Three Lovers.

